

## Message Text

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ACTION H-01

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R 071400Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1985

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 1448

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, US, UR

SUBJECT: CODEL MCCLURE: TALK WITH SADAT

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT SADAT, TALKING WITH SENATOR MCCLURE FEB 4, SAID AREA SITUATION IS EXPLOSIVE AND MUST BE DEFUSED BY ISRAELI PULLBACK IN SINAI AND GOLAN, AFTER WHICH IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO CONVENE IN CALMER ATMOSPHERE. END SUMMARY.

1. SEN MCCLURE AND AIDES HATHAWAY AND CRAFT ARRIVED CAIRO AFTERNOON FEB 6. UNTIL FEW HOURS PRIOR ARRIVAL, CODEL HAD BEEN SCHEDULED ARRIVE LATE AT NIGHT AND DEPART EARLY NEXT MORNING. DESPITE LAST MINUTE NOTICE, AMBASSADOR WAS ABLE ARRANGE THAT PRESIDENT SADAT SEE SENATOR EVENING FEB 6.

2. MCCLURE, ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR AND AIDES, WAS WARMLY GREETED BY SADAT. SENATOR NOTED STAGGERING DIFFICULTIES CONFRONTING PRESIDENT IN SEEKING SETTLEMENT TO ME PROBLEM. SADAT EMPHASIZED EGYPT WANTS PEACE. HE REITERATED THIS POINT THROUGHOUT DISCUSSION. TO DEFUSE PRESENT EXPLOSIVE SITUATION, SADAT WENT ON, EGYPT WANTS ISRAEL TO PULL BACK IN SINAI AND ON GOLAN. SINAI WITHDRAWAL WOULD BE GESTURE OF ISRAELI DESIRE DEFUSE SITUATION AND WOULD ALLOW CANAL TO BE OPENED. AT PRESENT, EGYPT CANNOT FULFILL TASK ASSIGNED GOE BY CONSTANTINOPLE  
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CONVENTION TO INSURE SAFETY OF NAVIGATION, SINCE ISRAELI GUNS ARE

SO CLOSE.

3. TIME, SADAT SAID, IS OF THE ESSENCE. GROMYKO (ON FEB 4) HAD TOLD SADAT HE WANTS BEGIN NEW CHAPTER IN EGYPTIAN-SOVIET RELATIONS. SO TIME IS SHORT, PRESIDENT REPEATED, ADDING THAT SOVIETS HAD NOT LIKED 1974 USG/GOE RAPPROACHEMENT OR EGYPTIAN EFFORTS CONVINCE OTHER ARABS OF USG GOOD FAITH. SINCE OCTOBER WAR, USSR EQUIPPED SYRIAN ARMED FORCES BUT NOT EGYPTIANS. NEVERTHELESS, "I AM RELAXED. I WANT PEACE." ME PROBLEM CAN NEVER BE SOLVED BY FORCE AND GOI SHOULD KNOW THAT.

4. REAL DANGER IS MISCALCULATION. FURTHER, IF THERE IS NO PROGRESS BY APRIL EXPIRATION OF UNEF, "WHAT CAN I TELL MY PEOPLE?" UNDOF ALSO EXPIRES IN MAY IN AREA WHERE TWO ARMIES ARE IN VIRTUAL PHYSICAL CONFRONTATION. THEREFORE, PRESIDENT SAID, "I AM HOPING, HOPING" THAT SECRETARY WILL "BRING US SOMETHING".

5. ON PALESTINE, SADAT REMARKED INTERNECINE STRUGGLE IN PLO IS SEVERE AND PREVENTS FORMATION OF GOVERNMENT IN EXILE.

6. SENATOR REMARKED US PRESS TREATMENT OF SECRETARY'S BUSINESS WEEK INTERVIEW MAY HAVE BEEN DISTORTED AND GAVE PESIDENT COPY OF SENATE SPEECH HE HAD MADE ON SUBJECT. SADAT SAID HE HAD NOT "TAKEN SERIOUSLY" SECRETARY'S REMARKS, BUT HAD BEEN FORCED TO MAKE PUBLIC STATEMENT ABOUT THEM SINCE THEY HAD PROVOKED STORM IN ARAB WORLD. REPLYING TO AMBASSADOR'S QUESTION, SADAT SAID THIS STORM OF CRITICISM IS SUBSIDING.

7. CONCLUDING, PRESIDENT REITERATED HE IS GENERALLY OPTIMISTIC AND HOPES FOR PROGRESS FOR SECRETARY'S UPCOMING VISIT. TIME FACTOR HE SAID AGAIN, IS, HOWEVER, INCREASINGLY COMPELLING.

8. COMMENT: VISIT WAS A USEFUL ONE AND CODEL SEEMED TO BE FAVORABLY IMPRESSED WITH PRESIDENT'S SINCERITY. ON HIS PART, TOO, IT WAS CLEAR THAT SADAT,ALTHOUGH VISIBLY TIRED, WELCOMED OPPORTUNITY EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH KNOWLEDGEABLE AND UNDERSTANDING MEMBER OF THE SENATE.  
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